Monson Celebrates Arbor Day June 1st

The Replanting Monson Tree Committee has worked with the Monson Selectmen to declare June 1st as the date of the Town's Arbor Day celebration. Although Arbor Day is traditionally the last Friday in April the Tree Committee has moved their celebration as a fitting reminder of the June 1st tornado and the positive actions that have resulted from that day – the replanting of trees throughout the tornado path.

The Committee is asking that you water or mulch a tree in your yard and send a picture to our Facebook account - Replanting Monson Tree Committee or to the Monsontreecommittee@gmail.com so we can share these celebration photos on our Facebook page.

Newly planted trees need at least a 5 gallon pail of water twice a week (if there is not enough rain) for the first 2-3 years after they have been planted. After that, the roots have had a chance to spread out from the root ball, so the watering should be moved further from the trunk and closer to the edge of the canopy of the tree further encouraging the roots to spread. The amount of water will be dependent on the size of the tree and the dryness of the soil. A rule of thumb is - if a small hand shovel or screw driver can be easily inserted into the soil it holds some moisture but if pressure is needed to push the shovel into the soil then it is probably dry and in need of water.

If you can refresh the mulch or put down mulch for the first time around the tree it will be beneficial. The rule of thumb is to create a 3-10 foot diameter circle around the tree by removing the grass in that area. Place between 2-4 inches of mulch in that circle, remembering that the mulch should not touch the trunk just come close to it. Mulching will help maintain moisture, reduce weeds to prevent root competition, reduce soil compaction, and reduce lawn mower or edger damage to the tree trunk.

Remember trees help clean the air we breathe and help filter the water we drink; they provide shade and benefit the wildlife around us. Show us how you are helping to care for the trees around you. Happy Arbor Day!